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Volume 68

Berkeley, California

Golden Gate Audubon Society

THE GULL



RICHARDSON BAY

A Resource Close to Home

When did you last visit Richardson Bay to see the abundant Canvasback, Western Grebe, and other waterfowl that winter there?

Too often in our excursions far afield we overlook resources and facilities located close at hand. Beth Huning, director of Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, promises to remedy this situation with her presentation at our meeting on Jan. 9 at 7:30 at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco. She will present an overview of the nature center and Sanctuary, with a slide display of the wildlife found there. She will discuss the Canvasback survey that the center conducted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, plus the impact that a potential development in nearby Strawberry Spit will have on the harbor seal population. In addition, Beth will outline the educational and outreach programs that Richardson Bay Center provides for the entire Bay Area.

Join us for this enlightening and entertaining program, and for refreshments afterwards, at our new San Francisco location (see map, page ten), where easy parking and convenient public transportation allow for a pleasant evening.

TOM WHITE

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, January 4 — Palo Alto Baylands. See December *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, January 8 — Mini-trip to Lake Merritt. Meet at the Rotary Science Center at 9:30 a.m. Leave Grand Ave. at Bellevue. Follow Bellevue to where it ends at the Rotary Science Center. This is a good opportunity to review ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (535-8032).

Saturday, January 11 — Stockton, Lodi and Thornton. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Stockton sewage ponds at the main gate. From the Bay Area take Hwy. 580 to Hwy. 4 (Charter Way) in Stockton. Go west on Hwy. 4 about 1.5 miles to the entrance to the sewage ponds. We will bird at the Stockton sewage ponds then caravan to the Lodi sewage ponds and to Thornton to look for cranes. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch. Leader: David Yee (209-951-1526).

Sunday, January 12 — Grizzly and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 north to Fairfield. Take the Fairfield/Rio Vista (Hwy. 12 east) exit and go east (right) on West Texas St. for about one-half mile to the City Park. Meet at the parking lot near the entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from

there to the refuge. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and marshbirds. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063).

Saturday/Sunday, January 18/19 — Los Banos State Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the refuge headquarters located 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. Allow 2½ to 3 hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and assorted waterfowl.

Please call Shirley Kelly if you plan to attend this trip. (387-8290) This trip will be repeated with the same meeting place and time on Sunday. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714).

Saturday/Sunday, February 18/19 — Panoche Valley. On **Saturday** meet at 8 a.m. at the reservoir on Hwy. 26, ¼ miles south of the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Please call Shirley Kelly if you plan to attend this trip. (387-8290). This trip will be repeated on Sunday in the reverse direction. On **Sunday** meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Hwy. I-5 and Little Panoche Road south of Los Banos. Leader: Chris Carpenter (376-6802), Chris Spooner (622-8297).

Saturday, January 25 — Carrizo Plain. From the Bay Area drive south on Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles or south on I-5 to Kettleman City. Lodging is available in both places. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cholame on Hwy. 46, about 24 miles east of Paso Robles. Driving time is four and one-half to five hours, so we suggest that you plan to arrive Friday evening. We will bird all day so you may wish to stay in the area Saturday night. Bring lunch, liquids, warm clothes and perhaps a spotting scope. This area is excellent for Sandhill Cranes, a wide variety of Raptors, Mountain Plover and Longspurs. Not only will we see birds but we will also discuss the geology of the area. The San Andreas Fault is an outstanding feature here. The Nature Conservancy is studying this area for a possible refuge.

Considering the length of the drive and the possibility of poor weather (high winds or snow), it is possible that this trip will be cancelled at the last minute. It will also be called off if there is no interest. It is therefore important that you notify Shirley Kelly (387-8290) if you plan to attend. Leave your name, number in your party and a phone number where you can be reached if the trip is cancelled. Leader: Eben McMillan

Sunday, January 26 — Dillon Beach. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales where we will stop by the old Bank of America building on Hwy. 1 at 9 a.m. to meet the people from West Marin. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee). Bring lunch, warm clothes, rain gear and a scope if you have one. We may see three species of

Loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants and Snowy Plovers. Golden Plovers are regular on this trip. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640).

Note from the Field Trips Committee — Each year GGAS has had trips to Los Banos State Refuge and Panoche Valley. These popular trips have been arranged to allow people to attend both. We suggest that people who are interested in both trips spend Saturday night in Los Banos. The starting points are arranged so that either trip may be selected on either day. If you plan to attend either or both of these trips, it is important that you call Shirley Kelly (387-8290).

Sunday, February 2 — Bay Park Refuge, Oakland. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the north end of Bay Park Refuge for a morning of leisurely birding. This trip is good for beginners. From Hwy. 17 take the Hegenberger Rd. exit, go right (north) on Edgewater Dr. for about one mile to the park. Bring a scope if you have one. Lunch is optional. We should see a variety of ducks, gulls and shorebirds. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106.)

Sunday, February 9 — Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at North Lake near the 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. entrance to the park. The Chain of lakes is excellent for ducks. We may see Wood Duck. Land birds are also plentiful. Lunch is optional. Leader: Erline Hevel (661-4251).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at (236-7022) and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER OBSERVATIONS— THROUGH NOVEMBER 27

A cold November continued the very dull fall. This month produced fewer rare landbirds than any November in memory. Virtually the only birding excitement was provided by exceptional pelagic discoveries at the Cordell Banks, west of Point Reyes.

PELAGICS

The big bird, in most respects, was a first year **Short-tailed Albatross** found Nov. 3 at the Cordell Banks (RS, PA, mob). Formerly common off our shores, this species nearly went extinct in the 1950's and now numbers only a few hundred individuals. Special boat trips were chartered to re-find this bird Nov. 5 and 7. To the ecstasy of all of us aboard the Nov. 5 trip, the **Short-tailed Albatross** came in to attend our boat, within a quarter of a mile of the original sighting (PA, mob)! A fishing boat to a different part of Cordell Banks Nov. 4 (JW) and the birding boats on Nov. 7 and 17 (PA) were not so fortunate, but all five trips recorded at least one or two Laysan Albatrosses. Perhaps four or five different individuals were involved (KFC).

All Cordell Banks boats had up to 300 Northern Fulmars (PA, mob). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen Nov. 3 and 5 (RS, PA, mob). From Nov. 3 to Nov. 17, numbers of Buller's Shearwaters dropped from 210 to 35, while Short-tailed Shearwaters increased from one to 50 (KFC, et al.). Farther south, 120 Black-vented Shearwaters were off Pt. Pinos Nov. 10 (SJ). Two Black-vented were visible from Pigeon Pt. Nov. 15 (CR), with one there Nov. 24 (EHase, fide RT).

The most astounding discovery at Cordell Banks was the unprecedented presence of substantial flocks of

enough. When the Nov. 5 trip encountered **45+**, including **35+** in one flock (PP, SH, PA, mob), it was truly mind-boggling! **Fifteen** were found Nov. 7 (RW, PA). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were also at Cordell Banks, often in mixed flocks with the Wilson's. Estimates of Fork-tailed were 15, 30, five and one on Nov. 3, 5, 7 and 17 respectively (PA, mob). One Forked-tailed and three Leach's Storm-Petrels were close off Cannery Row in Monterey Nov. 10 (mob), and a single Leach's was farther offshore Monterey Nov. 10 (SJ).

A South Polar Skua was at Cordell Banks Nov. 4 (JW), and the only Black-legged Kittiwake so far this season was an immature at the Banks the next day (SFB, PA). A late Sabine's Gull strayed to land at Monterey Harbor Nov. 10. (mob.)

OTHER WATERBIRDS

A Red-necked Grebe wandered inland to the Mountain View Shoreline Park Lake Nov. 26-27 (DS). Flocks of Cattle Egrets were few and small, with four near Las Galinas Sewage Ponds Nov. 25 (CF) the most reported. Our most coastal geese and swans during the period Nov. 15-24 were two Tundra Swans at Pescadero Marsh (JMS), and a Ross' and two Snow Geese near Pigeon Pt. (CR, et al.). Five solitary Harlequin Ducks were detected, including one at Rodeo Lagoon continuing throughout the month (CF, GH). The others were at Pacific Grove Nov. 10 (SJ), SE Farallon Island Nov. 11 (PRBO), Ano Nuevo Pt. Nov. 14 (CR, et al.), and Duncan's Landing, Sonoma Co., Nov. 16 (BDP).

The Lodi Sewage Ponds again had a Lesser Golden-Plover, on Nov. 9 (DY). The first Rock Sandpiper occurred on SE Farallon Oct. 25 to at least Nov. 22 (PRBO). The Little Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds was still present Nov. 11 (TK), and the adult Common Black-

headed Gull returned for another winter. The latter was sighted Nov. 10 (DY). A Heermann's Gull was extremely unusual inland at these ponds Nov. 9 (EH, fide JML). A first year Glaucous Gull appeared Nov. 26-27 at Mountain View where one has been seen in October (DS).

RAPTORS

Immature Bald Eagles away from wintering locations were at Pt. Diablo Nov. 9 (HB) and on SE Farallon Nov. 19-25 (PRBO), the third island record. Broad-winged Hawks were reported from Lawson's Landing in Marin County Nov. 13 (GF), and Alamo Nov. 26 (GA). A late Swainson's Hawk passed Pt. Diablo Nov. 1 (CF, et al.).

SMALL LANDBIRDS

A Red-naped Sapsucker was found near Gray Lodge Nov. 23 or 24 (JMS, MD, et al.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher on SE Farallon Nov. 2-7 (PRBO) was quite late. A Tropical Kingbird was at Olema Oct. 31 (GF). The Sage Thrasher at Coyote Hills was last reported Nov. 6 (fide rangers).

The only eastern warblers all month were on SE Farallon. They were two Tennessee Warblers Nov. 11-16 and four Palm Warblers Oct. 22-Nov. 6 (PRBO).

The Green-tailed Towhee at Bass Lake Nov. 3 was found in a seldom-birded part of Point Reyes National Seashore (JY). Two more Clay-colored Sparrows brought our fall total to an impressive 20. Both were on SE Farallon, Oct. 29-Nov. 1 and Nov. 10-12 (PRBO). As usual, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow is wintering at the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek. It was seen Nov. 10 & 16 (DW, SF, PR). High tides exposed a Swamp Sparrow at Shields Salt Marsh Nov. 9 (BDP) and two others a Swamp Sparrow at Shields Salt Inverness Park Nov. 11-12 (RS, DW).

An adult White-crowned Sparrow belonging to the race *oriantha* or to the nominate race visited SE Farallon Oct. 29-Nov. 6 (PRBO).

Up to four Lapland Longspurs inhabited Hayward Shoreline all month (BR, et al.). At Drakes Corners, ten Laplands and three Chestnut-collared Longspurs were counted Nov. 1 (JMa), and two Laplands were there Nov. 5 (AG, WG). Point Lobo's **Snow Bunting** was last seen Nov. 1 (fide DR).

Cloverdale Rd. in San Mateo Co. hosted up to two Rusty Blackbirds Nov. 14-27 (CR, et al.). Nine Evening Grosbeaks flew over Los Altos Hills Nov. 1 (PN).

Observers: Pacific Adventures, Garth Alton, Stephen F. Bailey, Herb Brandt, Kurt F. Campbell, Maryann Danielson, Carter Faust, Gary Fellers, Shawneen Finnigan, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Clark Gleason, Ed Harper (EH), Ed Hase (EHase), Alan Hopkins, Steve Howell, George Hugenburg, Shearwater Journeys, Ted Koundakian, Jeri M. Langham, John Mariani, (JMa), Guy McCaskie, many observers (mob), Paul Noble, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Peter Pyle), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Peter Pyle, Cliff Richer Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Phil Roster, Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, David Suddjian, Ron Thorn, Richard Webster, David Wimpfheimer, Jon Winter, David Yee, James Yurchenko.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY.

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California Rare Bird Alert
843-2211.)

CONSERVATION NOTES

CLEAN-UP HELP

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has been stressing cleaning up beaches in San Francisco. It has had significant help from volunteers, the San Francisco Conservation Corps and the Sheriff's work alternative program. Ocean Beach got the first attention, and will get it on a continuing basis. Aquatic Park, Crissy Field, Baker Beach and China Beach are scheduled for attention. The effort includes graffiti removal, litter pick up, and an educational program to teach respect and help in maintaining the beaches. Observations, comments and suggestions are requested, and if you would like to be involved in this you may phone Tom Ryan at 556-7733.

SUCCESS STORY (SORT OF)

(excerpted from Santa Clara Audubon's *The Avocet*)

Once in a while, one person can make a big difference . . . In September, the quick actions of two people in Newark stopped illegal disk-ing of wetlands on a proposed development site.

On Sept. 10 a Newark neighbor of the project spotted a tractor beginning to disk Mayhews Landing, a large tract of land that is to be developed into a golf course and residential housing. Because she cared about the land, she called Margaret Lewis, an active conservationist in Newark.

The developer, Edward De Silva, had a permit to disk the upland portions of the property, but not the wetlands; however, the tractor operator disked part of the wetlands. The tract contains a significant population of endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and numerous other animals and birds. Margaret immediately began calling local agencies and newspapers, Rep.

Don Edwards in Washington, D.C., the head of the San Francisco office of the Corps of Engineers, and numerous others.

As a result of Margaret's rapid and outraged response, the wetlands destruction was halted quickly, and the Corps of Engineers issues a Cease and Desist Order to the developer. The Corps action was much more rapid than it has been in the past, the SCVAS appreciates this response at Mayhews Landing.

The success of these two people who care is encouraging. If Margaret had not acted quickly the damage would have been much worse. Unfortunately, the diking killed numerous small animals, but only a portion of the wetlands was filled.

Editor's Note: One wishes that one alert Berkeleyan had re-acted as quickly to the Santa Fe destruction of waterfront areas this fall.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

One of my readers asked for tips on identifying bird songs and calls. No doubt this is a key aspect of birding. A birder relies on sound to locate familiar birds as well as to spot rare birds. Some species are so similar in appearance that only their songs distinguish between them. In the world of nature, only the complexity and vocal subtlety of human speech (and possibly the vocalization of cetaceans such as dolphins) surpasses that of communication in the avian world.

Bird vocalizations have been divided into songs and into calls, depending mainly on their message. Songs are usually longer and more complex than calls and are directed at territorial rivals or at mates. Males do most of the singing in order to establish a nesting territory and to attract a mate. Once they have pair-bonded, his song then stimulates her hormonal system for

breeding. Calls, on the other hand, are brief since they convey important and immediate messages: warning (e.g. a predator is near), distress, begging (e.g. by nestlings), flock cohesion (e.g. during migration), gathering (e.g. Quail calling their nestlings together), food identification (e.g. among gulls and other foraging birds) and comfort.

There are several methods used to try to teach the novice birder what various species sound like. "Caw," says the American Crow. That was easy, wasn't it? But, who says, "Witt-y, witt-y, witt-y"? (Answer: the Plain Titmouse, so says my field guide). Another method, more helpful, is to try to describe the QUALITY of sound, such as, wheezy (Pine Siskin), a low yank-yank (White-breasted Nuthatch) or loud and bubbling (House Wren). Less helpful is to compare one species' song to another's (Usually one you are unfamiliar with). e.g. The Lazuli Bunting's song is faster than the Indigo Bunting's and has a few scratchy notes. Oh! Then there is the modern aid, the sonogram, which shows us what a birdsong LOOKS like. It takes a professional audiospectrographer to decipher the smudges, squiggles and lines on such a chart. Still, if you study the sonogram of a very familiar bird, e.g. the Rufous-sided Towhee, you might get a vague idea of how to read these charts.

There is no quick and easy way to build a repertoire of recognized bird sounds. However, excellent records and tapes to accompany your field guide are helpful. I've found you can't simply sit down and play or the whole set or even one species. They all begin to sound alike. You might start with familiar birds in your yard. Track down the singer of each sound and fix that sound in your memory. Reinforce that memory by playing your recording. Don't try to memorize too many at one time. Gradually you will begin to develop an "ear" and will add new sounds each time you're in the field.

Along the way you're bound to find some favorites.

Birding with "old pros" is especially fun because each person has his own techniques for remembering songs, one of which might work for you. To me, an Ash-throated Flycatcher says "Three beers!" because that's what my first teacher, Barbara Bedayn, impressed on me. The Plain Titmouse calls remind me of a chickadee with laryngitis. To add to the challenge (frustration?), birds in different areas have slightly different dialects. "My" Song Sparrow begins his song with the first four notes of Beethoven's Fifth. According to friends, "theirs" do not sound that way. So it may be in the ear of the beholder.

Whether or not you develop the ability to identify bird sounds, DO listen. Enjoy birdsong as a source of aesthetic delight. What a drab and quiet place the world would be without the flutelike song of a Western Meadowlark! The energy, the joy, the emotional release you hear in his notes cannot help but make your day an even better one.

— MEG PAULETICH

NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

Birds For Real, Rich Stallcup, Inverness, 1985. 100 pp., text figures, \$7 post paid, Available from the author: P.O. Box 36, Inverness, CA 94937.

The stated intent of this book is to supplement the 1983 revision of *Birds of America* by Robbins, et al. Stallcup goes page by page, making practical suggestions to improve the plates and text. Thus, this book makes sense only if the reader has the revised Robbins in hand. Most of the information relates to the plates, but improvements are also suggested in the maps, particularly the ranges of North American birds in Mexico. The author is one of the most skilled birders in the country. He has spent a great deal of time studying North American birds, and clearly knows them extremely well. He also

has a gift for language, describing the appearance, behavior and vocalizations of birds with great economy and often with humor.

This book contains a wealth of useful identification material, and it is a shame that it could not be included in the new edition of Robbins. A great opportunity was missed in not bringing the best-selling field guide up to the level of accuracy which can be found in the recent National Geographic field guide.

Stallcup's book does contain a few errors, however. The nail of the female Goldeneye is usually dark gray, not orange as claimed. The claim that the white phase of the Harlan's Hawk does not exist is an extreme overstatement, since the status of this form has recently been elucidated by Mindel (*American Birds* 39:127-133, 1985). The suggestion that two races of Lesser Golden Plover "behave as separate species" is premature, in my opinion. The paper by Connors (*AUK* 100:607-620, 1983) which proposed this split merely showed that the subspecies were distinct without unequivocally demonstrating sympatric breeding or assortative mating. I doubt that they will soon be officially split. Juvenal dowitchers are distinct everywhere, not just on the west coast as stated. The races of Short-billed Dowitcher are indistinguishable in juvenal plumage. The streaked crissum of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper can be found on specimens of Pectoral Sandpiper as well, so I would take issue with the importance of that character.

Typographical errors are few. An illustration of the Xantus Murrelet seems to be missing. A "Harriet" is credited with an English rendition of the song of an Orchard Oriole; a "Florence" is thanked for a description of the House Finch song; but I cannot find who these people are and they are not listed in the acknowledgements. I was amazed to find my own name in the acknowledgements as one of a list of people "indirectly responsible for the

notions in this book''. I had no idea this work was in preparation until I saw a copy.

In spite of the inevitable reviewer's nitpicking, I actually found very few errors. I thoroughly enjoyed going through the book and comparing it with the revised Robbins field guide. There are wonderful touches throughout, and I heartily recommend this book for those interested in bird identification. Robbins' guide is still probably the most popular for use in the field. The National Geographic guide is often left in the car with other reference books. Anyone who uses the new Robbins should buy this book. Every birder at every level of skill will find it contains much of value.

— JOSEPH MORLAN

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Free evening bird classes will be offered through the John Adams Community College Center starting in January. Students may enroll at any time during the 18-week semester. Just go directly to the classroom, Room 227, Marina Middle School at the corner of Bay and Filmore Sts., on the day and hour listed below. Park in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

Each class stresses identification, status and habits of North American birds in a two-and-a-half hour weekly slide lecture. The text for all classes is *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society, available from the GGAS office (832-2222). The instructor is Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of our weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert".

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology. It stresses concepts in modern ornithology, including behavior, population ecology and

evolution, illustrated primarily by common Bay Area birds. It meets Tuesdays starting Jan. 14 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology II is an in-depth systematic treatment of identification and status of hawks, gamebirds, doves, cuckoos, owls, nightjars, swifts and hummingbirds. It meets Wednesdays starting Jan. 15 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology III will cover landbirds including vireos, warblers, buntings, sparrows, blackbirds, tanagers and finches. It meets Thursdays starting Jan. 16 from 7-9:30 p.m.

These classes are sponsored by GGAS as a public service and all evening classes are free of charge. Optional field trips may be arranged on weekends for \$32 for eight half-day trips. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the college at 561-1900 or 239-3070.

FREMONT BIRDING CLASS

The Fremont Adult School announces a series of classes given by Alice Hoch in which students will learn about field identification, life styles and ecology of local birds. Each Tuesday morning the class will visit a different birding spot. The class meets Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Jan. 7. Register at the first class at Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave. Fremont. Bring binoculars and field guides and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

WEEKEND: CARRIZO PLAIN and MORRO BAY

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey will lead a weekend birding trip to the Carrizo Plain and Morrow Bay on Jan. 25-26. Following the most exposed portion of the San Andreas Fault for over 50 miles, Saturday's route should produce large numbers of raptors including Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawks,

and eagles, plus cranes, Mountain Plovers, Mountain Bluebirds and many other special birds. Scenic Morrow Bay has wintering waterfowl including brant. Car-pooling arranged if desired. Call Steve at 731-0847 for more information.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Planning and Conservation League is sponsoring its third Environmental Legislative Symposium on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8 and 9 at the California State University of Sacramento. Invitations have been extended to Mayor Tom Bradley, Senators Cranston and Wilson, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, State Senator Roberti and Governor Deukmejian. Confirmations have not been yet received. For information, call 916-444-8726 or write PCL, 909 12th St. Suite 203, Sacramento CA 95814. GGAS is a member organization of PCL.

BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

Normally on the first Wednesday, the January meeting will be on the second Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baylands. George Lepp will, with slides and equipment, demonstrates some problems and solutions unique to nature and macro photography.

THE NATURE SOUND SOCIETY

The January meeting of the Society will be at the Richardson Bay Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Cove Rd., Tiburon. It will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 12, preceded by an 11:30 a.m. business meeting. Four experienced recordists will discuss "Beginning Techniques in Nature Sound Recording." Meetings are open to all interested in natural sounds. Call Paul Matzner at 273-3884 for information.

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN HIKES

Bay Area Mountain Watch offers free guided excursions with David Schooley, an expert on the ecology and history of San Bruno Mountain and a long-time activist on its behalf.

The hikes will seek out the secret places on the Mountain, as one meanders down creeks, weaves through native scrub, explores intricate mini-forests, or treads ancient grasslands. You can see what the land looked like, not only this mountain, but throughout the hills and valleys of San Francisco, before the coming of the Europeans.

David will point out the natural treasures, including rare and endangered plants and creatures, or their habitats, that even now are threatened in their last shrinking refuge. You will see parts of the Mountain that are supposedly "saved", and other canyons that will soon vanish forever under condominiums and quarry equipment - unless enough people care and make a difference.

There will be two kinds of hikes: semi-gentle walks of one and a half hours, and good rough hikes of four to five hours pushing through scrub and climbing an occasional near vertical grassland. For either, bring lunch, water, long pants and sturdy shoes.

For information and to sign up, call 467-2145 or 583-3897. Hikes will be conducted every Saturday - sun or fog.

THE MONO TRIPS: ELEPHANT SEALS

The Mono Lake Committee is again sponsoring bus trips to see the elephant seals on their breeding grounds at Ano Nuevo State Preserve. Three dates are planned: Monday, Feb. 10; Sunday, Feb. 23; Friday, Feb. 28. Send a check payable to Mono Lake Committee to M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708. The cost is \$19

per person prior to Jan. 15 and \$21 thereafter. The guided tour consists of a two and one-half hour, three mile hike over sand dunes to observe the males, females and pups which are all present at this time.

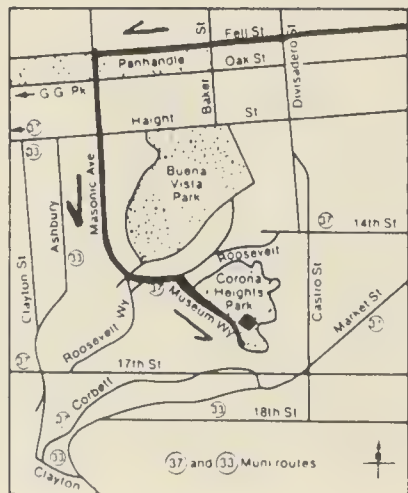
The bus leaves North Berkeley BART Station at 9:30 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. Trips are limited to 40 people each and last year all space was taken well before the early date! The trips go rain or shine. No refunds.

WHALES

The Oakland Museum and the Whale Center are jointly sponsoring a three day symposium "Whales, A Local Look with a Global Connection". Registration is \$12 per day per person (\$10 for members of either organization). The meetings Friday and Saturday are at the Museum and on Sunday there will be whalewatching cruises from Half Moon Bay. Parking is available at the Museum garage at \$.35 per hour. Call the Whale Center, 654-6621, for additional information.

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING SITE

The Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum is presently the regular meeting place in San Francisco. The map is reproduced for convenience in finding it at Museum Way.



NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch - Shoreline Hwy.

Stinson Beach, Ca., (415) 383-1644

Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature

Education under the joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Flora MacLise, Chairman

The Audubon Canyon Ranch board has adopted a long range planning report to guide its activities and expenditures over the next three to five years.

It has approved a budget of \$329,857 for the 1985-6 year (Oct. to Sept.) up \$50,000 from the previous year. More significantly, it has pledged itself to raising contributions this year by \$35,000 to an all time high of \$160,000.

This larger budget will provide for one full time education naturalist at Volunteer Canyon to assist Ray Peterson at the Bolinas Preserve. This position will be funded by a San Francisco Foundation grant of approximately \$30,000 in 1986 which will also finance, among other things, studies on the removal of exotic plants from the preserves and feral pig eradication.

Beyond 1986 if these activities are to continue they may have to be financed out of the general fund, according to board member Rick Baird.

Additional money raised through contributions will be expended for increased operating costs including utilities, community relations, maintenance, insurance, education, salaries and research on Olema Marsh.

These figures do not include the capital improvements at the Bouverie Preserve which are funded by contributions specifically designated for that property.

THE BIRDSEED SALE

More thanks - to Reed Bennett for his generous loan of his parking facilities for the Berkeley sale, and to Merritt Anderson, our tireless supplier. They both helped to insure success of the effort.

BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE

The Bouverie Audubon Preserve announces monthly community hikes led by trained docents. The hikes provide an opportunity for small groups of hikers to enjoy and learn about seasonal changes in Sonoma Valley. A variety of plant communities representative of this part of California may be seen.

Reservations are required. Space is limited. Phone (707) 938-4554. The deadline is the Wednesday prior to the hike. Bring a sack lunch and water for the trail. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. Be prepared to stay the full length of the hike. Young children are welcome, but they should be carried in a backpack, or capable of hiking the long, sometimes strenuous trails. (Two or five year olds may have difficulty.) The hikes are on Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. as follows: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 26.

THE GULL

In the last few months the fates conspired to get The GULL to some members later and later. There are many reasons, but the head of the list is the quality of second class mail distribution, particularly in the East Bay. We are currently working with our customer representative in the Oakland Bulk Mail facility. This has brought success for some zipcode areas. However, aberrations continue to occur. We mail before the first of the month, so The GULL should reach the membership in the first week of the month. Mailing much earlier is difficult given the timeliness of material in The GULL. How about another wish for 1986 - along with world peace — that you get your copy of The GULL on time! We are working on it.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS
In Memory of
Marjorie Harris

Gift of

Kay & Deane Furman

In Honor of
Elsie Roemer's birthday

Gertrude Bialos
Margaret & Ralph Hilton

FOR GGAS LIBRARY

Marie T. La Chapelle

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

Berkeley, California 94709

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.